

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 and to define certain aspects of the invention that distinguish patentably over the applied art. Claim 8 has been amended into independent form and to include the limitations of allowable claim 9. Accordingly, claims 2 and 9 have been canceled.

Claims 1-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Makita et al. The Examiner acknowledges that the reference does not discuss movement of the wire relative to the sealing plug, but nevertheless jumps to the conclusion that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the friction resistance between the wire and the sealing plug to permit easier assembly.

The Makita et al. reference shows annular lips on the inner and outer surfaces of a sealing plug. Annular lips have substantially equal longitudinal dimensions. However, the outer annular lips define a much greater radial dimension than the inner annular lips. As a result, the outer annular lips are more easily deformable than the inner annular lips. This is a statement of simple mechanics. A long member is easier to bend than a short member of identical cross-section. Thus, a force on the wire or terminal due to thermal expansion is more likely to cause movement between the more flexible outer lips than the less flexible inner lips. Thus, contrary to the assertions made by the Examiner, it appears that the Makita et al. reference is more likely to permit movement between the sealing plug and the housing than between the wire and the sealing plug.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 and to define longitudinal dimension of the lips. This aspect of the invention is described in paragraph 0027 of the specification and is shown in FIG. 5. The Makita et al. reference has absolutely no suggestion of this aspect of the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is submitted that amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-5 are patentable over Makita et al.

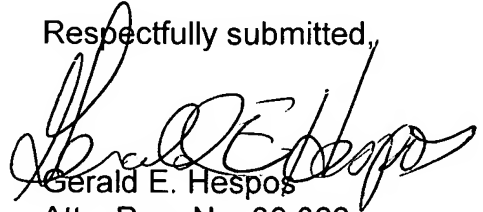
The Examiner indicated that claim 9 was directed to patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 9 had depended from claim 8 which in turn depended from claim 1. Claim 8 has been rewritten as an independent claim with all of the limitations of claims 1 and allowable claim 9. Accordingly, it is believed that amended claim 8 is in condition for allowance. Claim 10 depends from claim 8 and should be allowed as well.

The office action indicated that claims 1-8 were rejected. However, the previous office action had identified claims 6 and 7 as being directed to patentable subject matter. The Examiner gave no comments as to why the previous indication of allowability might have been withdrawn, and it is believed that the indication that claims 6 and 7 were rejected could have been a clerical error. With respect to claims 6, the Makita et al. reference has absolutely no suggestion of a fine embossed pattern being formed on at least part of a contact surface of the sealing plug with the inner surface of the cavity so that a frictional resistance between the inner wall of the cavity and the sealing plug is larger than a frictional resistance between the wire and the sealing plug. Additionally, with respect to claim 7, the Makita et al. reference has absolutely no suggestion of an outer contact surface of a sealing plug with the cavity being made of a material having a higher

specific frictional resistance than an inner contact surface of the sealing plug with the wire. Accordingly, the Examiner's previous indication of the allowability of claims 6 and 7 is believed to be correct and clarification of this aspect of the office action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name.

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Date: February 22, 2005